Benefits to poor under Poverty Alleviation Programmes

1620. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the *'Statesman'* dated June 2, 1992, captioned "Poverty Alleviation—potential beneficiaries left out";

(b) if so, what is the extent to which benefits of poverty alleviation programmes failed to reach the really poor people and were cornered by middlemen and other vested interests during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and till date; and

(c) what specific steps are being contemplated during the Eighth Five Year Plan to ensure that the benefits of such programmes reach those for whom the same are meant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the 3rd Round Survey of Concurrent evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) held during January —December, 1989 only in 6 per cent cases non-poor families were assisted. Engagement of contractors and middlemen are strictly forbidden for works under JRY. A schedule of inspection has also been laid-down under which a certain percentage of works is to be inspected by the officers of State Government at various levels. Institutional arrangements involving elected representatives as well as officials have also been involved. Thus all efforts are taken to ensure proper implementation of the programmes.

(c) Government of India in cognizance of the importance which should be given to correct identification of poor families had issued instructions on November 15, 1991 to all State Governments to conduct a fresh household survey of families in each village in order to identify those families which existed below the revised poverty line of Rs. 11,000. To ensure that the identification of BPL families is done properly certain safeguards and procedures have also been clearly enunciated. The State Governments have started the work relating to BPL survey according to instructions issued by the Centre and shall be sending the results on completion of the survey. Besides, the control and monitoring system in vogue now will also be continued during the Eighth Plan.

Use of Forest Wasteland

1621. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a massive programme to utilise gainfully the vast stretches of forest wasteland for growing palm and other plantation crops; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme indicating the hectares of land to be utilised in each State with employment opportunities to the rural poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Area of Wasteland, fallow land and culturable waste land

1622. SHRI SOMPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of waste lands, fallow lands and culturable waste lands in our country in terms of area and percentage of total land;

(b) what is the break-up of such lands respectively;

(c) whether some plans have been made to make use of these various categories of lands;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT): (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) and (b) According to an estimate, the extent of the wastelands in the country is about 129.5 million hectares or about 39 per cent of the total land area. The State-wies details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

As regards fallow lands and culturable wastelands, their extent, according to the landuse classification estimates (1987-88) carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, is as follows:-

		Area (million hectares)	Percentage of total land area
1.	Fallow land	29.77	9.04
2.	Culturable waste lands	15.63	4.75

(c) and (d) Land is a State subject. The responsibility of bringing lands under productive use falls within the purview of the State Governments. However, the State Governments are assisted in their efforts through the Central programmes and schemes like the Wastelands Development Programme, Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, Scheme for Reclamation of Ajkaline Lands in UP., Punjab and Haryana, Scheme of Integrated Water-shed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Areas, Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects, EEC assisted Projects of Reclamation of Ravinous Areas in Uttar Pradesh and Integrated Watershed Management in Gujarat, etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Estimate of Wastlands in India

(*Area in Lakh Hectares*)

States/UT	Total
Andhra Pradesh	114.16
Assam	17.30